



The USDA now has grants for Farms and Small Rural Businesses to install Solar and Wind products, up to 25% of the costs can be received for your installation. See here for details: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/9006grant.htm> Between an USDA grant and the tax credit a rural customer might cover 55% (via refunds) of the installed price of solar, wind or both and still get to depreciate the remainder of the cost.

The link is also available in the links section of our web site <http://www.shelbysolarandwind.com>

Below is a summary of the program in a frequently asked question (FAQ) format.

Rural Energy For America Program Grants/Renewable Energy Systems/Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (REAP/RES/EEI)

The REAP/RES/EEI Grants Program will provide grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. It also provides funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

How does the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program compare to the Rural Energy for America Program Guaranteed Loan and Grant?

To assist you in determining which program best fit your needs this comparison chart identifies the programs common and distinct requirements in an easy to read format.

How much are the grants?

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis and can be up to 25% of total eligible project costs. Grants are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy systems and \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements. Grant requests as low as \$2,500 for renewable energy systems and \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements will be considered. At least 20% of the grant funds awarded must be for grants of \$20,000 or less.

Who is eligible?

The program is designed to assist farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses that are able to demonstrate financial need. All agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers, who gain 50% or more of their gross income from the agricultural operations are eligible. Small businesses that are located in a rural area can also apply. Rural electric cooperatives may also

be eligible to apply.

What types of projects are eligible?

Most rural projects that reduce energy use and result in savings for the agricultural producer or small business are eligible as energy efficiency projects. These include projects such as retrofitting lighting or insulation, or purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficiency units. Eligible renewable energy projects include projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydro power and hydrogen-based sources. The projects can produce any form of energy including, heat, electricity, or fuel.

For all projects, the system must be located in a rural area, must be technically feasible, and must be owned by the applicant.

How to Apply

To apply for funding for the REAP Grant Program, please contact your Rural Development State Office.

Grand Rapids Office

3260 Eagle Park Dr., Suite 107

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

(616) 942-4111 Ext. 6

Traverse City Office

1501 Cass St.

Traverse City, MI 49684

(231) 941-0951 Ext. 6

Note: Shelby Solar and Wind has the applications and details for applying. Grant writing services are available.

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NOTICE

This is essentially a test of the newsletter software for Shelby Solar and Wind. Please be patient as we work out any problems with the format. We ran this test a month ago and unexpectantly found multiple problems with both our hosting server and mail server (but not with the software). That prompted a website move to a new hosting server and mail server. If you had any emails "bounce" back to you in the past year that you sent to us please feel free to try again, as we did not (obviously) receive it. It is also possible (if not probable) that emails we sent out did not actually get sent out, so if you were expecting information from us and did not get it please inform us of that and we will attempt to rectify that as well. You may have received this email a month ago,

but most did not as the emails bounced back to us. We apologize for these issues if they have affected you in any way and thank you for your understanding.

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